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NEWS RELEASE 2

**5th SIGNAL COMMAND CONTINUES RESTRUCTURE OF EUROPEAN
NETWORK OPERATIONS, ASSISTS AFFECTED PERSONNEL**

MANNHEIM, Germany – The 5th Signal Command, United States Army, Europe's communications arm, has met with employees throughout the European theater since the restructuring process scheduled through FY 2007 was initiated in mid-March.

Following guidelines outlined by the Department of the Army and U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM), the restructuring enhances the efficiency and security of network operations in Europe.

5th Signal Command is taking every measure possible to ensure a successful transition while treating all our Soldiers, civilians, local nationals and families with dignity, honor and respect through the reduction in forces process.

"We want our employees to know that we value their service, and that we will continue to support them throughout the entire restructuring process," said Brig. Gen. Dennis Via, Commander, 5th Signal Command.

U.S. and local national civilians (local national civilian employees in Italy will be provided briefings once host nation requirements are met) throughout the 5th Signal Command footprint have been briefed by command leadership and the Civilian Human Resources Agency – Europe (CHRA-E) at workforce restructuring briefings. The briefings provided employees with an opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification about the restructuring process and programs available to them.

The workforce restructuring briefings assisted employees by clarifying timelines and options, and addressing concerns related to the restructuring. In addition, voluntary early retirement, reemployment rights, and the reduction in force process were outlined during the meetings.

"We are putting plans, programs, and processes into place to ensure we assist all our employees through this transition," said 5th Signal Command deputy commander Col. Stephen Walker. Follow-on briefings are planned to keep employees updated on the transformation initiative. In addition, CHRA will be providing US civilian employees a comprehensive Priority Placement Program briefing.

In order to assist and support the affected local national employees, 5th Signal command is collaborating with work councils, employment agencies and host nation leaders. "We will help to place our local national employees by filling current needs with internal candidates, possibly coordinating job fairs, and working with host nation employment specialists," said Walker.

Simultaneously, the European theater has been informed of the changes to information systems. "Steps have been taken to inform our communities and customers on the consolidation of network services and advances in knowledge management throughout the European theater," said Via. "From a customer's perspective, the transition should be seamless. There will be no change in our level of commitment and service."

While building the network stage for the future of the US Army in Europe, 5th Signal Command continues its efforts to place affected U.S. and local national employees into continuing positions. Information will be provided to all employees as early as possible about the options available to them.

"Our focus is to ensure that all our employees are cared for while we restructure the US Army in Europe communication services," added Via.

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